

AMERICAN SURVIVOR

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IN THIS ISSUE: The Down Side of Technology, 100 Deadly Skills book review, Lock Picking for Survival, No Camp Independence 2016?, Live Free Annual Meeting, Live Free Volunteers, Training Events, and more.

THE DOWN SIDE OF TECHNOLOGY

By James C. Jones, EMT/CHCM

In the words of the Sothern general in an old cartoon series “we have met the enemy and he is us”. Virtually all of the scenarios for the devastation of civilization and the possible extinction of humanity are the creations of civilization and humanity.

Just because everyone else uses certain “modern” technologies does not necessarily mean that it is beneficial or even smart. When I was a kid the books “1984” and “Animal Farm” were very popular. They envisioned a world where everyone was watched, monitored and programed to think alike. The masses were also generally drugged and pacified. Sound familiar? Of course George Orwell could not have imagined the technology for true dehumanization and total societal tyranny that we have created today.

Introduction

First of all, let’s put this editorial in perspective. I am an only child of a dysfunctional family. I participated in no social or extracurricular activities

throughout my grammar, high school and college years. Oh, I was not some weird “loner”. I had a small group of close friends and was friendly, but my associations were (and still are) selective. I had many years without any kind of phone or TV. In fact, I never liked telephones or doorbells and often wonder why they never come with on/off switches. I feel absolutely no obligation to answer the, phone or the door unless I am already expecting a call or a visit. Likewise, I seldom open FWD e-mail or e-mail from people I do not know. So consider that this article is written by someone that is predisposed to dislike intrusive and invasive technology.

Credit Cards and ATMs

Credit cards and ATMs were foisted on the American public decades ago. There was a comic skit back then about this guy who tells a banker about a plan to have folks give the bank their money and then charge them for giving it back. “They’ll never fall for that” the banker exclaims. American’s use credit cards for everyday purchases because it’s what they are told

is normal. Now the companies give “points” as bribes to encourage usage. In reality they just giving you back your money while collecting information that they sell to others. Oh, and hopping you get back in debt. Credit cards do have some limited applications, but are no sensible alternative to daily cash purchases. Several stores that I frequent were recently hacked, so what! I never used a credit card at any of them. Massive breaches of the internet finance systems should make any sensible person go back to cash now.

Cell Phones

Back when I worked for a big corporation they insisted that I have a cellphone that they paid for. It was a nice little gadget to have for emergencies. After two years, they asked if I still had it. Sure I said. “You never made any call on it?” “Who was I supposed to call?” I gave it back to them. My wife gave me two cells phone’s to carry for emergencies. I eventually lost both of them without ever having used them. I now carry a non-service cellphone that only dials 911. If I do not need to dial 911, it’s not an emergency.

I never feel the need to call someone when I am not home and I certainly do not want anyone to call me when I am not home! That’s part of the point of being “out”. To make matters worse, we now know that various agencies (and probably non-agencies) can track you and even turn the phone on and listen to your non-phone conversations. Smart phones, make dumb people. Sorry, but that’s my observation. Playing games, texting inane blather and watching movies has made zombies out of previously alert and productive citizens. An opiate to keep the masses from thinking and acting

intelligently. There is little evidence to indicate that these toys have actually resulted in any increases in creativity or productivity. What great inventions and breakthroughs can be attributed to them? In fact there are plenty of studies that indicated a loss of productivity and increase in errors and accidents due to these devices. I primary rule of survival is “be here now” yet smart phones insist that you must be mentally someplace other than where your body is located. That is a form of Russian roulette that will hurt you sooner or later. What about those neat survival apps and alert apps? They are marginally useful gargets that should be replaced by survival knowledge and alertness. A recent study found that the use of so called smart-phones has reduced the human attention span to about 7-seconds. That’s a second shorter than that of a goldfish.

Social Media

The joke goes “being the popular person on FaceBook is like being at the cool table in the insane asylum cafeteria. Predators around the world just drool at a well filled profile and constantly monitor (using systems) your communications. There are a million ways they can know who you are, who you know what you do, how you thinks, what you think. Is this what you want strangers to have!! The internet is a great place to find information, but the last place you want to put information. Being able to put misleading information and video clips on social media and instantly create demonstrations, civil unrest, violence and criminal activities before facts, context and analysis prevail has led to billions in damage and scores of injuries and deaths. This will only get worse as society unravels. Flash mod crime

initiated on the same systems instantly brings looters to enhance and screen criminals as they “smash-and-grab”. No thinking allowed on social media!!

E-Mail

E-mail was the first internet communication tool that came along. It has its uses. You can quickly send messages and attachments from one person and the recipient can open them when convenient. I always open actionable e-mails from known associates and reply. I seldom open forwarded e-mails or bla, bla sent to me and never reply. Back at the corporate offices, e-mail quickly became a copout system to replace real communications. Instead of a constructive conversation you just fire off an e-mail and forget it. I must admit that I occasionally abused the system by send out a UODR (Unudoor) message about something I intended to do, but did not think I would get the okay for? “Boss Unless Otherwise Directed (UOD) I will -----. Send the e-mail just before you do the deed and well before the boss will check his e-mail again. With e-mail one person could ask 100 people to respond or act on an issue. Now take hundreds of executives and middle managers doing that and BOOM you have overloaded everyone and achieved nothing. The book “The Tyranny of E-mail” documented how this system had stymied creativity, productivity and initiative. And again we have a system that is hacked and read by just about every agency on the planet. E-mail must be used selectively and with respect.

E-Commerce

There is no question that e-commerce is more efficient than the stores and malls.

We can do away with actually interacting with other people. We just tell the system what we want and it is sent to us. Of course the system analyzes our habits and eventually winds up manipulating us and deciding what we want. Amazon likes to tell me what books I would like by my favorite authors. The book store that closed let me jump to completely new and different authors and subjects and when I did purchase them for that for cash no one knew what I was thinking but me. Karl Marx was right about some things. He predicted that eventually all of the wealth (and power) would wind up in the hands of a few who owned the means of production, but as long as “labor” was needed that prediction was delayed. Technology is rendering most labor obsolete. Even technical and management task are disappearing. I remember a cartoon years ago of a plant owner lamenting that while he had finally cut his payroll costs to zero and increased production through automation but no one was buying anything. Are we just transferring the costs from payrolls to tax supported welfare and moving folks from productive lives to being wards of the state.

Computers and the Internet

Computers are great tools and *have* actually facilitated some great developments. The internet started out with great promise and still has its uses, but has degenerated into anarchy and chaos where scammers, hackers, and morons of all sorts waste our time, misinform, misdirect, spy, steal and plunder. At this point the entire infrastructure and safety of America is open to massive assault. Our personal information and financial security is constantly at risk. Dependency on these

systems has destroyed alternative and backup system. Airlines can have airplanes and fuel and passengers, but still cannot issue passes because “the system is down”. It is interesting to note that many agencies and governments have resorted to typewriters for some security applications. The World Wide Web is seriously broken and a hazard to all of us.

Inadvertent Brainwashing

Too late for the tinfoil hats, your brain has been read and washed. Logarithms analyze your credit card and online purchases, educational background, income, occupation, social media activities, book and magazine preferences and search engine queries to produce a profile of how you think (or are expected to think) about everything. **Google and all the other search engines use this to create a “filter bubble” that anticipates your thinking.** For example: If a liberal thinking college professor and a conservative auto mechanic put the same word into Google they will get different results and be sent to different sites. Amazon refers me to survival and history books based on past preferences. At the book store I often went off into new subjects such as astrophysics or western philosophers. I got some of my best ideas from totally outside the box subjects. The “bubble filters” tend to keep you inside the box and polarized to never question your thinking develop new ideas. Of course these profiles are fully available to all sorts of government and non-government agencies that can put you on all sorts of lists. **There are no laws or prohibitions to anyone tinkering with these filters to subtly shift your thinking.** You can only think about what you know or are told and these filters control that. Even if you

assume (a dangerous thing to do) that no deliberate or malevolent mind control is being done, the fact that it *can* easy be done should scare the hell out of us. And just the effects of the logic in the logarithms on our information flow on our thinking puts us in a cage controlled by a machine. A true threat to the human spirit and soul.

Hackers Rule

The recent hacking of Sonny, Target, and other institution is the tip of a very big iceberg and we are all on the Titanic. There are millions of independent and government sponsored “Black Hat” hackers out there doing nothing but trying to cause chaos and harm to you and every online function. You can safely assume that every website and computer network is or will be hacked and that every piece of data and communication you have can and will be available to others at some point. Only hand written notes or documents typed on standalone computers is secure. The Russians have gone back to typewriters for many high security activities. **Now you may think that hacking is the domain (pun intended) of code writing geeks but anyone that can move a mouse can hack. Those geeks sell hacking software kits on the internet.** This stuff is often referred to as “script kitties” and some of it is pretty good or bad depending on your perspective. Of course this stuff is always being upgraded to defeat the latest protections. How’s that for a nightmare!

Conclusion

Am I a technophobe? No, I am just rational and analytical and unafraid to question popular trends. The above technologies do have useful applications for some people for some purposes, but

they are general used as toys, diversions and even status symbols and as such they do far more harm than good in our society. This massive back-and-forth, 24/7 of inane trivia reduces actual thinking time. Technology is moving itself well ahead of legal restraints or rational consideration of its effects. The potential hazards are far greater than nuclear materials, but are handled and distributed like ice-cream. You can safely assume that everyone knows everything you do everywhere you go.

More Bad News About Technology!

I was just starting to wonder if I had been a little too harsh in the above article when three events occurred that only reinforced by opinions.

- A recent study indicates that distracted drivers (e.g. cell phones, texting, etc.) are not aware of police cars, fire trucks and ambulances. This is causing increased collision with emergency vehicles and delayed responses due to failure to yield. A fire doubles ever 60-seconds and a victim's recovery chances drop 10% with every minute of delayed response
- Hackers recently acquired peoples' personal (very personal) photos from the Cloud and published them.
- Russian hackers have hacked into the massive data files of large US and UK banks and are selling your personal information, SS numbers and credit card data to criminals throughout the world. This is in retaliation for US government sanctions against Russia. You are now the victim of a cyberwar

thousands of miles away. This is just the beginning of cyberwars that may destroy the economy and definitely make *you* a target for enemy nations and terrorists of all kinds.

- The Chinese recently hacked all of the US government Human Resources files and National Guard personnel files
- Windows 10 uses facial recognition and fingerprints to ID you. This is also applicable to the new payment software for smart-phones. As cash and even credit cards go away you will simply be owned by the system. Any deviation from "normal" can result in your simply being non-existent.

AFTER NOTE: A few days after I completed this article another two store chains were hacked. Two blocks from my home an actor at our local theater was on his cellphone when he turned directly into the path of a truck and was killed instantly. "I'm 5-minutes away" were his last words. I was behind a guy in the check-out line just now. His credit card would not work and he did not have enough cash to buy \$27.00 worth of items and had to go looking for an ATM! I paid cash. Just because "everyone does it this way" does not make it safe, smart, efficient or even sane.

I suppose all of this is futile ranting to these already obsessed with what's next, but if that's you, may I call you Winston Smith. *You do know who Winston Smith was, don't you??

Other Ways Can Kill Ourselves Off With Technology

- Mutant gene research or deliberate creation of destructive genes can easily lead to massive death rates. The equipment for altering genes is now quite affordable and fairly easy to use. Not good news.
- NASA and other agencies continue to explore the possibility of making mini-black holes. They propose that these will be safe black-holes that self-destruct. And if they don't ---.
- Nanotechnology is a growing field. They will soon make Nano-robots or nanobots the size of dust particles that can perform medical procedures inside the blood vessels and kill cancer cells, they also could be made to reproduce themselves over and over until they consume every living thing on earth.

Sure hope I haven't interfered with you sleep tonight.

**Winston Smith was the character in Georg Orwell's book "1984" that was subjected to total control, observation and brainwashing. At least Winston had the advantage of knowing that it was happening and not voluntarily doing it to himself.*

Picking Locks as a Survival Skill

Certainly we all regard lock picking as a rather nefarious activity used by criminals and spies, but under true, live-or-die survival situations including this skill and the necessary devices in your survival kit may be worth consideration. In a large-scale disaster there will be plenty of abandoned commercial, industrial and residential structures. Even sheds and barns can provide emergency shelter that is far superior to tarps and tents.

While breaking into someone's home or business is not something we want to do, it may be absolutely necessary to get out of the cold, wind, rain and other hazards. Entry should be achieved with the minimum of noise and damage. A broken window or door will attract unwanted attention. Carrying a lock pick gun and/or small pry bar in your survival pack may be worth the weight. If you enter someone's home be respectful of their property. If you must "borrow" food or other items to survive leave them a note and an IOU for future reimbursement. **Just because civilization has broken down does not justify your becoming a looter.** Most importantly: be sure it is truly an unoccupied structure before approaching or attempting entry. Carefully observe, call out and even knock first. Going from a desperate survivor to an intruder could result in disaster for you and the occupants. The lock pick gun below with its instruction should get you past most locks, but you should practice ahead of time. Lock picks alone are much smaller and lighter than this gun, but take longer to learn. There are also special master keys and jiggle keys made for padlocks and automobiles. You can get these devices on line and through many survival supply catalogues. The one below is made by Scorpion Defense Products and is sold by BUDK.com for \$22.99. Plain picks are just \$9.95 while jiggle keys go for \$19.00



No Camp Independence 2016

Camp Independence started out as a small group of would-be survivalists renting a single cabin at the Camp Potawatomi group camp at Tippecanoe River State Park Indiana back in 1968. These gatherings grew into Camp Independence the original and oldest preparedness education gathering in America. Back in the 80s and 90s when “prepping” was not as popular as it is today Camp Independence was the only event going. Live Free eventually leased the entire facility consisting of four “units” of cabins eight each of which could house about ten people, a large dining and meeting hall, administration cabin, instructors cabin, training cabin, infirmary and of course sanitation facilities. It was like having our own “survival town” for the weekend every spring. Some Live Free chapters would fill a whole unit for themselves. Over the years Live Free has trained, inspired and networked thousands of good citizens at this event. We even have third generation members whose first experiences there were as children. Camp Independence also known simply as “tippi” to us old-timer’s helped to develop dozens of survival/preparedness instructors and leaders and brought together the core of the movement when other events and groups had been discontinued. **We have received scores of requests wanting to know “when is tippi?” Regrettably: we are unable to schedule the event in 2016. A combination of factors make it too difficult to organize this event.**

The major issue is that the Indiana DNR. The given reason is that an endangered species of bats inhabits some of the buildings. The bats have been there for as

long as we can remember, but apparently a child got bitten and they sued the DNR. This was just a last straw for the DNR because the facility was costly to maintain and seldom used. . The real reasons are a sad indication of our weakening society. **Over the decades fewer and fewer groups used the facility. Scout groups and other organizations have declined and budgets for outdoor events have dwindled.** At the same time the state’s budget has grown tighter and the DNR is a low priority. We did hold Camp Independence last year in the smaller meeting hall at the park. The event was successful, but more limited without the multiple buildings and training areas.

The second issue is that Live Free USA has a lot more events and programs going on than years ago when Camp Independence was pretty-much our only big program. We need to support our growing number of chapters that conducted their own events and participate (exhibit and instruct) at big regional preparedness expositions. We still could have done Camp Independence if the chapter in that part of Indiana had been willing and able to provide support (food services, some instructors, and set-up) for the event, but that has not been forthcoming. **We needed to have active “boots on the ground” there,**

Will Camp Independence Return?

We sure had hopes of seeing Camp Independence reach its 50th year in 2018, but unless there is a real change in resources it will probably not happen. Realistically we could still do the event even if we had to put it off till fall if we had sufficient involvement and support. Camp Independence would be smaller, but still a

great outdoor/indoor gathering. Live Free certainly has the funds to rent the facilities and instructors to do many (but not all) of the classes. This could and should be Northeast Indian's signature preparedness even. We are also **looking for alternative locations and (a long-shot) that we can acquire our own facilities. Some of you may remember that we owned land in Wisconsin back in the 80s that was "the American Survival Center" but was lost due to poor support.** Maybe a grant or donation will bring that back? Probably not. Anyway: we will go on with our other programs and see if we can bring back Camp Independence in the near future. Time will tell.



There was plenty of room for indoor and outdoor classes at Potawatomi and participants could rent the cabins in the background (there were 32 of them) cheaply.

100 Deadly Skills by Clint Emerson

Book review by Jim Jones

Most of the skills are not actually "deadly", but they are mostly illegal under normal circumstances. Clint Emerson is a retired Navy Seal and he shares some very nasty techniques in this book. Yes, there *are* only a few that are actually deadly, but many could be lifesaving under survival conditions. A few skills are probably impractical for most of us such as using parachute drops and scuba gear to infiltrate enemy borders, but there is a lot of good trade=craft such as how to detect and lose surveillance, shoot from a vehicle, detect a tracking device, follow a car or person, and deceive surveillance cameras. There are instructions on all kinds of ways to pick all kinds of locks including handcuffs, steal vehicles, escape hostage situations and improvise weapons. There certainly are some nasty items like how to avoid leaving DNA and fingerprints, not leaving any digital trail and how to get rid of a body. I would say that 90% of the content could be useful in survival situations.

The best thing about this book is its format. Each skill is covered in just one page of text and one facing page of illustrations. The illustrations are how-to boxes reminiscent of some old Vietnam-era military manuals or illustrated novels. Very easy to digest and understand. This little 5 ½ x 8 inch, 256 page book has some stuff I did not have in my (50-years accumulation) library, and that takes some doing. I think you'll like it. From Simon and Shuster. www.Simonandshuster.com. \$18.00 US.

STEP UP FOR LIFE AND FREEDOM!



Live Free USA is a mission driven, membership supported organization. Membership involvement and new leadership is the key to our success in helping build the survival and self-reliance movement in America. We will soon be celebrating our 50th year of service and organization. Your Live Free USA is growing and expanding every year. We are entering a whole new phase of activities and opportunities, but success depends on greater membership involvement and initiative. Here are some of the opportunities for involvement and support in the coming years.

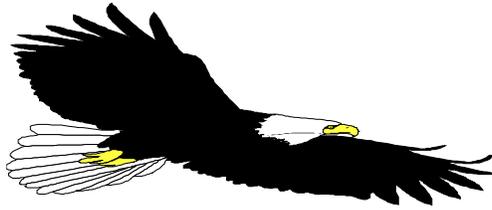
Elected Officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary and four Directors. Three offices are up for reelection each year. Additional Directors may be added as the need arises.

Non-elected Officers: Directors at Large can represent the organization in specific areas or in specific tasks. Deputy Directors may be designated to aid specific Directors. Coordinators are designated to manage specific organization functions such as Training, Fund Raising, Publications, Websites, Security, Events and Public Relations. These positions are established and approved by the Board of Directors as needed

Chapter Leaders: Appointed by chapter members or Live Free USA to organize, coordinate and sustain local or regional group activities and communications.

Expectations: The above titles come with expectations and responsibilities. Self-direction and initiative are requirements. At all times the designee should be able to answer three questions. What am I planning to do? What am I doing now? And what have I done so-far to further the task and the mission?. Be assured that we give our fullest support to active leaders.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities contact survivorjj@aol.com



LIVE FREE, USA 48th ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday March 19th, 2016, 1:00 PM till 3:00 PM

**CABELA'S Sporting Goods Store, Second Floor Conference Center
7700 Cabela Drive, Hammond IN, South of I-80 at Indianapolis Blvd.**

Open To Members, Families and Supporters

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**Learn about the work of Live Free USA to help our nations citizens achieve greater
preparedness, self-reliance and freedom**

Special Feature before the Meeting!

COME TO CABELA'S AT 10:00 AM on March 19th for the presentation of:

Square Foot, Raised Beds and Intensive Vegetable Gardening

A Free Presentation sponsored by Northwest Indiana Preparedness

A chapter of Live Free USA

Learn everything you need to know to begin your garden from a certified Master Gardener! Richard Rock's interest in gardening began during his tour of Viet Nam while serving in the Army. He earned Master Gardener status in 1993, was a co-editor of the monthly magazine "Directions" for 24 issues and is a sought after speaker. Richard has provided presentations at many garden clubs, Ace Hardware Stores, colleges and for several years at the Garden Fest held at the Mc Henry Community College. This program will include; making soil, starting seeds, fertilizers, building raised beds, greenhouses, planting, and trellis. Companion planting, where to get seeds, harvesting, seed saving, and more. As a member of Live Free, USA for more than 30 years preparedness and self-sufficiency are a way of life for Richard Rock. Gardening & Food Technology, as well as food storage and food preparation are his passion. **For those planning to get their seeds started a few weeks before this event, Richard suggests taking a look at <http://www.seedsavers.org/>**

INDIANA PREPARE TO SURVIVE EXPO 2016

The Preparedness Expo held at the Porter County Fair Grounds Expo Center in May 2015 was so successful that it will be returning bigger and better in 2016.

(continued on next page)

INDIANA PREPARE TO SURVIVE EXPO, JUNE 11th and 12th 2016
PORTER COUNTY INDIANA EXPO CENTER
South of Interstate 80 on US 49 a few miles past the US 30/ Valparaiso
exit, MAIN BUILDING AND EXPO EAST BUILDING
9:00 AM till 400 PM

Prepare Today to Survive Tomorrow: A hands-on exploration into prepping, self-reliance, preparedness, and sustainable living techniques. Two stages with speakers, workshops and classes throughout both days.

Speakers and exhibitors should contact:

preparetosurviveexpo@gmail.com or go to www.surviveexpo.com

GUNS SAVE LIFE MEETINGS

Active regional gun rights and self-defense organization hosts monthly meetings in Champaign, Springfield, Pontiac, Peoria and Charleston Illinois and Chicago. Meetings at Phelps Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5220 at 9514 S. 52nd, Ave. Oak Lawn IL 60453 on the last Sunday of each month. For latest information visit their site at: www.GunSaveLife.com, or contact estpierre@gunssavelife.com

CRITICAL THREAT MANAGEMENT TRAINING

A dynamic course in “force-on-force” training as used by law enforcement and the military. Students will learn proven tactics and techniques for armed self-protection as well as the legal considerations and implications of using deadly force. Empty-hand Krav Meg combative methods will be covered. A live-fire segment with 150 rounds completes the course. There are no prerequisites, but experience in the safe handling effective use of firearms is recommended. Fee: Early Registration \$250.00 pp before Dec. 31 2015. Location: Timber Points Outdoor Center, Hudson IL. Dates: April 9-10, May 21-22, August 27-28, October 8-9 2016. Contact: GSLDefenseTraining.com or contact John Boch at templar223@comcast.net, 217-640-3702

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City _____ State ____ Zip _____
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Phone _____
E-mail _____

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HELP WANTED

Due to medical emergencies we have had difficulty getting our newsletter mailed out. Our original and long serving volunteers for mailing, and for manning gun show tables are diminishing without replacement. We have not had an editor for this publication in many years and have to improvise and rush to get it done. Any offers of support will be appreciated.

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Membership: \$20.00 per year, \$50.00 for 3-years

